

FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT
Mojave Water Agency
Groundwater Monitoring Wells Replacement Project
FEMA-DR-1577-CA, Project Worksheet 560

The Mojave Water Agency (MWA) has applied for funds from the U.S. Department of Homeland Security Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA), through the State of California Governor's Office of Emergency Services (OES), to replace groundwater monitoring wells that were located along the Mojave River in San Bernardino County, California. The monitoring wells were lost as a result of the severe storms, flooding, and debris flows that occurred in the region from December 27, 2004 through January 11, 2005. The natural disaster resulted in the presidential disaster declaration FEMA-DR-1577-CA. FEMA is proposing to fund the project under the Public Assistance Program that was implemented in response to the presidentially declared disaster.

MWA is proposing to replace the wells that were destroyed in the disaster with wells that are relocated to more accessible and less flood prone areas, and that use enhanced well designs. Seven nested groundwater monitoring wells would be constructed at five sites along the Mojave River between the Cities of Barstow and Apple Valley in San Bernardino County. MWA would negotiate a 25-foot by 25-foot easement with the property owner of each of the proposed sites and construct a nested monitoring well, comprised of two or more well casings installed within a single borehole, at each site. The boreholes would be 1 to 2 feet in diameter and extend 30 to 855 feet below the ground surface. Each well casing would be approximately 3 inches in diameter. A 4-foot by 4-foot well box, set in concrete that would extend approximately one foot from each side of the well box, would cover each of the proposed wells. The top of the completed monitoring well would not extend above the ground surface. During construction, machines such as drill rigs, support trucks, shakers, loaders, pick-up trucks, and Baker tanks would be used. The temporary construction area would be approximately 150 feet by 150 feet around each proposed well site. Staging would occur within this area. Construction would occur between the months of September and February, in order to avoid the breeding seasons of the southwestern willow flycatcher and the least Bell's vireo.

In accordance with the National Environmental Policy Act, FEMA has prepared a Final Supplemental Environmental Assessment (SEA) to the Programmatic Environmental Assessment (PEA) for Typical Recurring Actions Resulting from Flood, Earthquake, Fire, Rain, and Wind Disasters in California (December 2003) to evaluate the impacts of the Proposed Action on the human environment. The PEA and SEA are available online at <http://www.fema.gov/plan/ehp/envdocuments/ea-region9.shtm>.

Based upon the conditions and the information contained in the Final SEA, and in accordance with FEMA's regulations in 44 CFR Part 9 (Floodplain Management and Protection of Wetlands), 44 CFR Part 10 (Environmental Considerations), and Executive Orders 11988 (Floodplain Management), 11990 (Protection of Wetlands), and 12898 (Environmental Justice), the following is concluded:

A Finding of No Significant Impact. Therefore, an environmental impact statement will not be prepared, based on the fact that there will be no long-term adverse impacts to the natural environment resulting from the Proposed Action. For more information, contact the undersigned at (510) 627-7027. No action will be allowed to occur until 15 days after publication of this Finding of No Significant Impact.



Alessandro Amaglio
Region IX Environmental Officer

10/19/2006
Date